P. W. D
1887

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1887.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

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GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT,

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1887.

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PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT,

FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 1887.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following letter from G. T. WALCH, Esq., Superintending Engineer, I Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 7th November 1887, No. 279 V.Z. :—

I have the honor to submit herewith a proposition statement for the extra medical establishment required in the Vizagapatam division, and to request that sanction of Government may be obtained to the same for the reasons stated therein.

ORDER—dated 3rd December 1887, No. 2306 W., Public Works.

Sanction is accorded to the entertainment of a lascar on Rs. 6 per mensem *plus* Rs. 3 local allowance to be attached to the Public Works hospital at Potinghi.

2. This sanction has been registered as Provincial, No. 48 W. of 1887-88, and classified as Establishment, Permanent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, I Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts, with statement.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 3rd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 3rd Dec. 1887, No. 3306 W.

DECEMBER.

Public Works Hospital at Potinghi

Entertainment of a lascar to be attached to the —, sanctioned.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

LETTER—from

COLONEL J. O. HASTED, R.E.,

Secretary to the Government of Madras,

Public Works Department,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

SIR,

In reply to your letter, No. 2048 G., dated 14th October 1887, I am directed to say that this Government has carefully considered the proposals brought forward and desire to make the following remarks.

The truth of the first two points brought out by the note which accompanies your letter the Government readily admit, and a study of the Madras list for past years will show that the Government have, as a rule, exercised their right of selection in filling the administrative grades with a result which has certainly been advantageous to the public service. As regards the third point, I am to say that the expression "the selection being limited between certain periods of service" seems to refer to recent letters of the Government of India which, while laying down the rule that officers will be liable to be called upon to retire if they have not attained the rank of Superintending Engineer at fifty years of age, appear to imply that they will be retired. To this rule this Government do not entirely agree. While allowing that it is well to give the Government the power of retiring an officer not fitted for the duties of Superintending Engineer at the age of fifty, they are of opinion that the rule should not be made absolute, and that the Government, under which the officer is serving, should be left to judge whether it is desirable in the interests of the public service to retain the services of an officer above the age of fifty in the position of Executive Engineer.

The accuracy of the fourth point this Government recognises.

2. The proposals made in the 5th paragraph of your letter do not, I am to say, altogether commend themselves to this Government. As regards the first, the division is on the Madras list, practically made, at all events to this extent, that the Government are fully aware of the names of the officers who can never be appointed Superintending Engineers. Of those left in the first-grade of Executive Engineers, there are unquestionably able men who will be promoted as soon as opportunity occurs, but there are others, regarding whose fitness for the administrative grades there may not be the same certainty, and such men it is desirable to try as Officiating Superintending Engineers before finally deciding on their supersession. There is also, I am to observe, a very serious objection to creating a class of men who know they can never rise to a higher position. So long as the prizes of the service are thought to be within their reach men may be expected to do their best, but when the prospect of promotion ceases, it can only be expected that men will work perfunctorily and with as little trouble to themselves as possible. Of course this evil may exist to some extent in the case of the men now passed over, but it is minimised by adopting the principle of selection without making separate lists; and if only men who are well known in the department and whose superior ability is unquestionable are selected for

a vacancy in the Superintending Engineer grade, those who are superseded will often acknowledge the justice of the appointment.

3. There is also a further objection to dividing the First-grade Executive Engineers into two classes, if there is to be one list of the higher grades for the whole of India. Supposing the selection for Superintending Engineer to be made by seniority from A lists of the different provinces, it must often happen that a conspicuously able man will find a man of moderate ability preferred before him ; while, if the selection is not made by seniority, a Local Government would be unable to enforce the claim of its best man, as the Government of India could not possibly form any opinion of the relative merits of the Executive Engineers on the lists of distant provinces, confidential reports not being comparable relatively.

4. The second and third proposals affect this Government only if they accept the invitation of the Government of India to join the confederation of other lists under the Government of India, which, I am to say, this Government is not at present prepared to do. There is an Executive Engineer, serving this Government, whose experience has been almost entirely of Military Works and Roads and Buildings; the circles in this Presidency all contain very important Irrigation works, and it is evident that an officer who has had no experience whatever of Irrigation works could not be placed in charge of them. The officer in question acknowledged his unfitness for promotion under these circumstances, and the Government, though unwilling on other grounds to supersede him, felt themselves bound to do so, without, of course, having in contemplation enforced retirement at the age of fifty. If the proposals of the Government of India were accepted, this Government might find themselves compelled to accept as Superintending Engineer an officer who might have been employed, the greater part, if not all, of his service on Military works, and also be entirely ignorant of the language, the character of the works, and the method of execution prevailing in this Presidency, which would be entirely different to what he was accustomed to. It appears to this Government that, if officers of the higher grades are to be transferable throughout India, it is absolutely necessary that, in the earlier years of their service, they should have served an apprenticeship in the Presidency to which they, in later life, are to be transferred. Railway works would form an exception to some extent, the character of such works being the same everywhere, but even in their case a Superintending Engineer who had a previous knowledge of the country and the language spoken would have a great advantage over a stranger.

5. While therefore fully acknowledging the block in promotion and the evils consequent thereon, this Government are of opinion that, for the present at all events, their selection of men for the administrative grades must be made from their own list, and be quite unfettered, and they consider it is probable that, when the rules lately introduced regarding pension begin to affect the senior officers of the department, the flow of promotion may become more regular. If the remedy for the present state of affairs is to be found in amalgamation of the lists, this Government are of opinion that the amalgamation must be made in the junior as well as in the senior grades, but they are not prepared to say that such amalgamation will prove feasible, at all events for some time to come.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
12th December 1887.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 12*th*.

Recd. *Encl.*

12th Dec. 1887, No. 3391 W.

DECEMBER.

Engineer Establishment.

Reporting on the proposals of the Government of India regarding the promotion of the members of the — to the higher administrative posts of the department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

Read—the following letter from G. H. D. WALKER, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (General), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 29th November 1887, No. 2354 G.:—

It having been decided that officers of Royal Engineers who may elect for continuous service in India shall be subject to the Civil Leave Rules, it is necessary that such officers should report the dates of their embarkation and debarkation on going on and returning from leave in the same manner as other officers under Civil Leave Rules report such matters, in view to the preparation of leave certificates: I am to request that instructions may be issued accordingly.

Order—dated 13th December 1887, No. 3394 W., Public Works.

Communicated to officers concerned for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To Superintending Engineers.
To the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 13*th*.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 13th Dec. 1887, No. 3394 W.

DECEMBER.

Furlough

Letter from the Government of India requesting that instructions may be issued to officers of Royal Engineers who may elect for continuous service in India to report the dates of their embarkation and debarkation on going on and returning from leave, communicated to officers concerned.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following letter from H. S. TAYLOR, Esq., Executive Engineer, Periyár Division, to the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, dated Thekady, 1st December 1887, No. 495 P.P. :—

In G.O., No. 2314 W., dated 29th August 1887, the appointment of one lascar only, under each subordinate, is sanctioned, under Establishment.

2. Under the peculiar circumstances of their position, I beg to represent that one lascar is hardly enough.

3. They have to pay away large sums of money three times in the month, and they keep a certain amount constantly in their cash chests.

4. They also have to send away frequently down into the valley, long distances, for various articles and with money.

5. These necessities, as well as the daily attendance of one lascar required during execution of work, call, I think, for the attachment of at least two lascars to the establishment of each subordinate.

No. 412 P.R.

Submitted to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, for orders.

2. I am of opinion that the peculiar circumstances of the case justify the employment of a second lascar to each subordinate, and the statement of establishment attached to my report of 1882 shows that the credit to Provincial Funds on this account is likely to considerably exceed the actual cost of establishment employed.

3. Under the circumstances, I recommend the appointment of a second lascar on Rs. 9 per month to the upper subordinates employed on the project (two in number) for the remainder of the official year.

CHINNAMANUR, (Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Lieut.-Col., R.E.,
6th December 1887. Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.

ORDER—dated 15th December 1887, No. 3417 W., Public Works.

Under the circumstances explained, two additional lascars, on Rs. 9 each per mensem, are sanctioned for employment under the upper subordinates attached to the Periyár Project division.

2. This sanction has been registered as Provincial, No. 49 W. of 1887-88, and classified as Establishment, Temporary. It will lapse at the end of the official year.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of [1887] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 15th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 15th Dec. 1887, No. 3417 W.

DECEMBER.

Lascars

Two additional —, for employment under the upper subordinates attached to the Periyár Project division, sanctioned.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

READ—the following papers :—

From the	Chief Engineer for Irrigation,	dated	31st Oct.	1887,	No.	72 E.W.
„	Superintending Engineer, I Circle,	„	31st „	„	„	292 G.L.
„	„ „ II „	„	21st Nov.	„	„	149 C.
„	„ „ III „	„	14th „	„	„	1677.
„	„ „ IV „	„	11th „	„	„	455 E.W.
„	„ „ V „	„	24th „	„	„	3482.
„	„ „ VI „	„	29th „	„	„	1412 T.J.
„	Consulting Architect to Government	„	2nd „	„	„	1022.

ORDER—dated 17th December 1887, No. 3452 W., Public Works.

The foregoing papers are replies to the inquiry made in G.O., No. 2827 W., dated 21st October 1887, as to whether the head-quarters sub-divisions of the divisions named in the margin, should be placed in direct charge of the divisional Executive Engineers, and also whether the rule implied in paragraph 1831 of the Public Works Code should be generally observed.

Vizagapatam.	Coimbatore.
Central Godávari.	Nilgiris.
Eastern Kistna.	Presidency.
Buckingham Canal.	North Arcot.
West Coast.	Consulting Architect.

2. The majority of Superintending Engineers are of opinion that an Executive Engineer should be free to devote equal attention to all parts of his division, and should not therefore be placed in immediate charge of any particular portion of it. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation considers that as a general principle, the rule that an Executive Engineer in charge of a division should also have direct charge of the head-quarters sub-division, may be accepted as suitable and satisfactory, but that there are many divisions which should form exceptions, as in them the rule can only be enforced at the cost of efficient supervision of the division by the Executive Engineer.

3. The Government agree in opinion with the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and consider that while paragraph 1831 of the code may remain unaltered, the case of each division must be considered on its merits.

4. With respect to the particular divisions mentioned above, the Superintending Engineer concerned shows sufficient reasons, except in the case of the Vizagapatam division, for not placing the head-quarters sub-divisions in charge of the Executive Engineers, and the present arrangements will therefore be continued. With regard

to the Vizagapatam division, the Superintending Engineer is of opinion that the head-quarters sub-division can, with advantage, be placed in the Executive Engineer's immediate charge, and arrangements will be made accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Architect to Government.
" Examiner, Public Works Accounts.

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1887} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December, 17th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 17th Dec. 1887, No. 3452 W.

DECEMBER.

Head-Quarters Sub-divisions

Orders on correspondence relating to the subject of placing the — of certain divisions in direct charge of the divisional Executive Engineers.